**What is claimed is:**

1. Apparatus for providing video content to a plurality of televisions comprising:

a centralized gateway for connecting to said plurality of televisions and to a digital network supplying packet-based video content according to a plurality of selectable video feeds, wherein said centralized gateway comprises;

a wide-area network interface for receiving network packets from said digital network;

a processor coupled to said wide-area network interface for initiating requests for selected video feeds and for converting said received network packets into at least one compressed data stream;

a plurality of decoders coupled to said processor for uncompressing a respective data stream;

a plurality of television adapters coupled to said decoders and each adapted to be coupled to one of said televisions, said television adapters generating television signals usable by said televisions in response to a selected uncompressed data stream;

at least one gateway-to-local-area network interface;

an address server for assigning IP addresses, each assigned IP address

corresponding to a respective one of said televisions; and

a plurality of port extender modules, each associated with a respective television and responsive to a corresponding IP address, wherein each port extender module comprises;

at least one peripheral device interface for connecting to a peripheral user device providing user data, said user data including selection data to be provided to said processor to identify selected video feeds for said requests;

a local-area network interface coupled to said gateway-to-local-area network interface; and

a protocol encapsulation processor for transporting said user data to said local-area network interface.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein each of said port extender modules is located proximate to its respective television.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a wireless communication link between said gateway-to-local area network interface and said local-area network interface.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said gateway-to-local area network interface and said local-

area network interface are comprised of respective transceivers coupled together via a cable carrying said television signals.

5. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a network UTP cable connected between said gateway-to-local area network interface and said local-area network interface.

6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said peripheral device interface includes a remote control interface for receiving said selection data from a remote control device.

7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said gateway includes a storage media containing a compressed video file, and wherein said selection data can further select viewing of said video file at said respective television.

8. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said processor determines whether selection data from one port extender module is equivalent to selection data from another port extender module and, if they are equivalent, provides a corresponding video feed to both televisions corresponding to said one and another port extenders.

9. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said peripheral device interface includes a serial bus interface.

10. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said peripheral device interface includes a game-port interface.

11. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said peripheral device interface includes a keyboard interface.

12. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said television adapters comprise outputs for connecting to a standard television coaxial cable.

13. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said centralized gateway includes a plurality of gateway-to-local-area network interfaces, each connected to a respective one of said port extender modules.

14. A method for providing video content in a facility having a plurality of televisions, said method comprising the steps of:

connecting a centralized gateway to a digital network that supplies packet-based video content according to a plurality of selectable video feeds;

connecting a first television supply cable to a first respective television adapter output of said centralized gateway;

connecting a second television supply cable to a second respective television adapter output of said centralized gateway;

connecting a first port extender module to said centralized gateway, said first port extender being associated with a first television coupled to said first television supply cable;

connecting a second port extender module to said centralized gateway, said second port extender being associated with a second television coupled to said second television supply cable;

said first port extender module communicating with said centralized gateway to request an IP address;

said centralized gateway assigning a first IP address to said first port extender module, said centralized gateway further associating said first IP address with said first television adapter;

said second port extender module communicating with said centralized gateway to request an IP address;

said centralized gateway assigning a second IP address to said second port extender module, said centralized gateway further associating said second IP address with said second television adapter;

said first port extender module communicating with a first remote control for identifying a first selected video feed;

said first port extender module sending selection data to said centralized gateway in response to said first selected video feed, said selection data including said first IP address; and

said centralized gateway retrieving said first selected video feed from said digital network and generating a corresponding first television signal at

said first television adapter, wherein said centralized gateway identifies said first television adapter in response to said first IP address.

15. The method of claim 14 further comprising the steps of:

said second port extender module communicating with a second remote control for identifying a second selected video feed;

said second port extender module sending selection data to said centralized gateway in response to said second selected video feed, said selection data including said second IP address;

said centralized gateway comparing said first selected video feed and said second selected video feed;

if said first and second selected videos feeds are the same, then said centralized gateway coupling said first television signal to said first and second television adapters simultaneously; and

if said first and second selected videos feeds are not the same, then said centralized gateway retrieving said second selected video feed from said digital network and generating a corresponding second television signal at said second television adapter, wherein said centralized gateway identifies said second television adapter in response to said second IP address.